

# National Service Impact in Connecticut

## AmeriCorps

Teach For America Connecticut provides a critical source of well-trained teachers who are helping to break the local cycle of educational inequity. AmeriCorps members teach for two years in low-income schools in Bridgeport, Stamford, Hartford, New Haven, and Windham, going above and beyond traditional expectations to help their students achieve at high levels. Today, 189 AmeriCorps members are teaching more than 11,000 students in the state. Teach For America Connecticut measures each corps member's progress against ambitious benchmarks. For the 2011-12 school year, the first and second year teachers (corps members) achieved, on average, 80 percent and 87 percent of their benchmarks, which translates into 1.20 and 1.31 years of academic growth, respectively. The average academic growth per year for low-income students is 0.4 years. Teach For America Connecticut members have enlisted more than 3,650 volunteers this grant year, and for MLK Day, 171 corps members served 520 volunteer hours at charitable organizations across the state.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County seeks to build community and to improve lives by partnering with low-income families, community volunteers, and donors to build simple, decent, safe and affordable neighborhoods. In an area that has been identified as having the widest income gap in the United States' 516 metropolitan areas, according to the Census Bureau, greater Bridgeport area benefits from the collaboration with AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) by making more housing to low-income residents. Through collaboration with NCCC members, 200 new volunteer relationships were generated, 2,000 pounds of debris were removed from identified communities, eight homes were constructed, and two blitz builds were coordinated with 600-800 corporate volunteers.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

The New Haven Education AmeriCorps VISTA Project placed 17 VISTA members at seven community organizations that teach children to read, prepare youth with skills to enter and succeed in college, and provide students with wraparound services to improve educational performance. VISTAs also provided parents with tools and support to ensure their students' success. As a result, VISTAs enabled community organizations to reach more than 3,500 students and 500 parents in New Haven by increasing the number of programs and the quality of services provided by literacy tutors, wraparound service providers at New Haven public schools, and college readiness programs. The VISTAs also distributed 200,000 books to classrooms and throughout the community, raised \$250,000 in cash and in-kind donations, and recruited 250 volunteers who contributed almost 10,000 hours of service.

## Senior Corps

New Opportunities RSVP project in Waterbury engaged 36 RSVP volunteers in serving 87 clients through the Money Management program. Money Managers provided a total of 1,721 hours of service to elderly or disabled low-income adults who had difficulty managing their money. Money Managers helped clients balance their checkbooks, reviewed bank statements, and provided other financial assistance as needed. Money Management services allowed 84 percent of all clients to remain living independently in their own homes.

## Social Innovation Fund

Connecticut AIDS Resource Center's (CARC) project, Connecticut Integrated Healthcare and Housing Neighborhoods, implements a health home outreach model linking primary care, behavioral healthcare, and supportive housing. The program will serve 160 adults across the State of Connecticut who are homeless with chronic behavioral health and substance abuse conditions and/or other chronic health problems and who are high utilizers of crisis health services, particularly emergency departments, inpatient units, and detox facilities. Program activities are intended to increase access to health services for vulnerable populations; increase coordination between primary health care systems, behavioral health care services and community organizations; and improve health outcomes and reduce high costs associated with high crisis health service use. Their first annual award from their Social Innovation Fund intermediary, Corporation for Supportive Housing, was for \$400,000, which they will match dollar-for-dollar.